

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1150.153

pursuant to §1150.152, for administrative costs incurred by the Department after May 1, 1984.

### § 1150.152 Assessments.

(a) Each person making payment to a producer for milk produced in the United States and marketed for commercial use shall collect an assessment on all such milk handled for the account of the producer at the rate of 15 cents per hundredweight of milk for commercial use or the equivalent thereof and shall remit the assessment to the Board.

(b) Any producer marketing milk of that producer's own production in the form of milk or dairy products to consumers, either directly or through retail or wholesale outlets, shall remit to the Board an assessment on such milk at the rate of 15 cents per hundredweight of milk for commercial use or the equivalent thereof.

(c) In determining the assessment due from each producer pursuant to §1150.152 (a) and (b), a producer who is participating in a qualified State or regional program(s) shall receive a credit for contributions to such program(s), but not to exceed the following amounts:

(1) In the case of contributions for milk marketed on or before May 31, 1984, up to the actual rate of contribution that was in effect under such program(s) on November 29, 1983, not to exceed 15 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed.

(2) In all other cases, the credit shall not exceed 10 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed.

(d) In order for a producer described in §1150.152(a) to receive the credit authorized in §1150.152(c), either the producer or a cooperative association on behalf of the producer must establish to the person responsible for remitting the assessment to the Board that the producer is contributing to a qualified State or regional program. Producers who contribute to a qualified program directly (other than through a payroll deduction) must establish with the person responsible for remitting the assessment to the Board, with validation by the qualified program, that they are making such contributions.

(e) In order for a producer described in §1150.152(b) to receive the credit authorized in §1150.152(c), the producer and the applicable qualified State or regional program must establish to the Board that the producer is contributing to a qualified State or regional program.

(f) The collection of assessments pursuant to §1150.152(a) and (b) shall begin with respect to milk marketed on and after the effective date of this section and shall continue until terminated by the Secretary. If the Board is not constituted by the date the first assessments are to be collected, the Secretary shall have the authority to receive the assessments on behalf of the Board. The Secretary shall remit such assessments to the Board when it is constituted.

(g) Each person responsible for the remittance of the assessment pursuant to §1150.152(a) and (b) shall remit the assessment to the Board not later than the last day of the month following the month in which the milk was marketed.

(h) Money remitted to the Board shall be in the form of a negotiable instrument made payable to "National Dairy Promotion and Research Board." Remittances and reports specified in §1150.171 shall be mailed to the location designated by the Secretary or the Board.

### § 1150.153 Qualified State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education programs.

(a) Any organization which conducts a State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education program may apply to the Secretary for certification of qualification so that producers may receive credit pursuant to §1150.152(c) for contributions to such program.

(b) In order to be certified by the Secretary as a qualified program, the program must:

(1) Conduct activities as defined in §§1150.114, 1150.115, and 1150.116 that are intended to increase consumption of milk and dairy products generally;

(2) Except for programs operated under the laws of the United States or any State, have been active and ongoing before enactment of the Act;

(3) Be financed primarily by producers, either individually or through cooperative associations;

(4) Not use a private brand or trade name in its advertising and promotion of dairy products unless the Board recommends and the Secretary concurs that such preclusion should not apply;

(5) Certify to the Secretary that any requests from producers for refunds under the program will be honored by forwarding to either the Board or a qualified State or regional program designated by the producer that portion of such refunds equal to the amount of credit that otherwise would be applicable to that program pursuant to § 1150.152(c); and

(6) Not use program funds for the purpose of influencing governmental policy or action.

(c) An application for certification of qualifications of any State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education program which does not satisfy the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section shall be denied. The certification of any qualified program which fails to satisfy the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section after certification shall be subject to suspension or termination.

(1) Prior to the denial of an application for certification of qualification, or the suspension or termination of an existing certification, the Director of the Dairy Division shall afford the applicant or the holder of an existing certification an opportunity to achieve compliance with the requirements for certification within a reasonable time, as determined by the Director.

(2) Any State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education program whose application for certification of qualification is to be denied, or whose certification of qualification is to be suspended or terminated shall be given written notice of such pending action and shall be afforded an opportunity to petition the Secretary for a review of the action. The petition shall be in writing and shall state the facts relevant to the matter for which the review is sought, and whether petitioner desires an informal hearing. If an informal hearing is not requested, the Director of the

Dairy Division shall issue a final decision setting forth the action to be taken and the basis for such action. If petitioner requests a hearing, the Director of the Dairy Division, or a person designated by the Director, shall hold an informal hearing in the following manner:

(i) Notice of a hearing shall be given in writing and shall be mailed to the last known address of the petitioner or of the State or regional program, or to an officer thereof, at least 20 days before the date set for the hearing. Such notice shall contain the time and place of the hearing and may contain a statement of the reason for calling the hearing and the nature of the questions upon which evidence is desired or upon which argument may be presented. The hearing place shall be as convenient to the State or regional program as can reasonably be arranged.

(ii) Hearings are not to be public and are to be attended only by representatives of the petitioner or the State or regional program and of the U.S. Government, and such other parties as either the State or regional program or the U.S. Government desires to have appear for purposes of submitting information or as counsel.

(iii) The Director of the Dairy Division, or a person designated by the Director, shall be the presiding officer at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in such manner as will be most conducive to the proper disposition of the matter. Written statements or briefs may be filed by the petitioner or the State or regional program, or other participating parties, within the time specified by the presiding officer.

(iv) The presiding officer shall prepare preliminary findings setting forth a recommendation as to what action should be taken and the basis for such action. A copy of such findings shall be served upon the petitioner or the State or regional program by mail or in person. Written exceptions to the findings may be filed within 10 days after service thereof.

(v) After due consideration of all the facts and the exceptions, if any, the Director of the Dairy Division shall issue a final decision setting forth the action

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to be taken and the basis for such action.

[49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, as amended at 56 FR 8258, Feb. 28, 1991]

### **§ 1150.154 Influencing governmental action.**

No funds collected by the Board under this subpart shall in any manner be used for the purpose of influencing governmental policy or action, except to recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

### **§ 1150.155 Adjustment of accounts.**

Whenever the Board or the Department determines through an audit of a person's reports, records, books or accounts or through some other means that additional money is due the Board or that money is due such person from the Board, such person shall be notified of the amount due. The person shall then remit any amount due the Board by the next date for remitting assessments as provided in § 1150.152. Overpayments shall be credited to the account of the person remitting the overpayment and shall be applied against amounts due in succeeding months.

### **§ 1150.156 Charges and penalties.**

(a) *Late-payment charge.* Any unpaid assessments to the Board pursuant to § 1150.152 shall be increased 1.5 percent each month beginning with the day following the date such assessments were due. Any remaining amount due, which shall include any unpaid charges previously made pursuant to this section, shall be increased at the same rate on the corresponding day of each month thereafter until paid. For the purpose of this section, any assessment that was determined at a date later than prescribed by this subpart because of a person's failure to submit a report to the Board when due shall be considered to have been payable by the date it would have been due if the report had been filed when due. The timeliness of a payment to the Board shall be based on the applicable postmark date or the date actually received by the Board, whichever is earlier.

(b) *Penalties.* Any person who willfully violates any provision of this subpart shall be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than the

amount specified in § 3.91(b)(1)(xx) of this title for each such violation and, in the case of a willful failure to pay, collect, or remit the assessment as required by this subpart, in addition to the amount due, a penalty equal to the amount of the assessment on the quantity of milk as to which the failure applies. The amount of any such penalty shall accrue to the United States and may be recovered in a civil suit brought by the United States. The remedies provided in this section shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available by law or in equity.

[49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, as amended at 70 FR 29579, May 24, 2005]

### **§ 1150.157 Assessment exemption.**

(a) A producer described in § 1150.152 (a) and (b) who operates under an approved National Organic Program (NOP) (7 CFR part 205) system plan; produces only products that are eligible to be labeled as 100 percent organic under the NOP, except as provided for in paragraph (h) of this section; and is not a split operation shall be exempt from the payment of assessments.

(b) To apply for an exemption under this section, a producer pursuant to § 1150.152 (a) and (b) shall submit a request for exemption to the Board on a form provided by the Board at any time initially and annually thereafter on or before July 1 as long as the producer continues to be eligible for the exemption.

(c) The request shall include the following: the producer's name and address, a copy of the organic farm or organic handling operation certificate provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent as defined in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502), a signed certification that the applicant meets all of the requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section for an assessment exemption, and such other information as may be required by the Board and with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) If a producer described in § 1150.152 (a) and (b) complies with the requirements of this section, the Board will grant an assessment exemption and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the